

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

In the Examiner's letter mailed February 3, 2005, restriction to one of the following inventions has been required under 35USC121 to the following listed Groups:

Group I. Claims 1-5 and claims 7-8, drawn to a process and apparatus for compressing a loading rain in a chamber to apply overburden pressured to a core sample, classified in class 73, subclass 38.

Group II. Claim 6, drawn to applying lithostatic pressure due to overburden independent of the overburden into a core sample, classified in class 73, subclass 37.

Applicant hereby provisionally elects Group I.

This election is made without traverse.

**CONCLUSION**

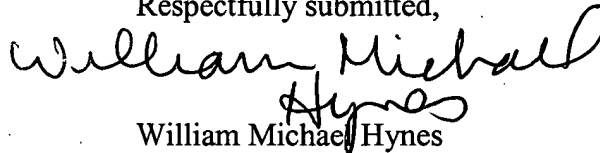
In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

Appl. No. 10/757,111  
Reply to Office Action of February 3, 2005

PATENT

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 415-576-0200.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William Michael Hynes". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "W" and "H".

William Michael Hynes  
Reg. No. 24,168

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